

App. No. 10/708,400
 Amendment dated February 1, 2006
 Reply to Office action of November 1, 2005

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.

Claims 13 and 14, as being drawn to a non-elected invention under the restriction requirement, were withdrawn from consideration. Applicants hereby affirm their election of Group I, to which claims 1-12 are directed, and thus have by the present amendment cancelled claims 13 and 14.

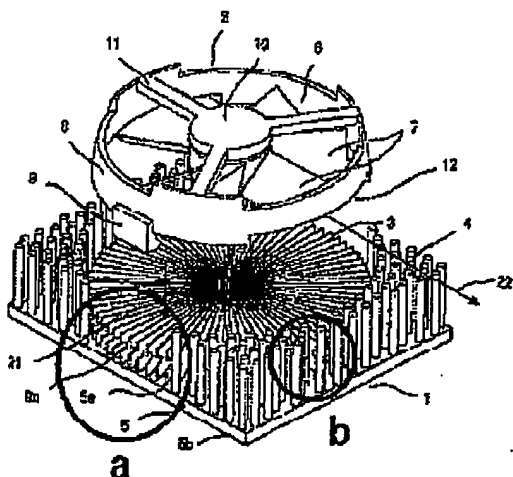
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 10 are rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Unexamined Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003-258473 to Yoshiyasu Sasa.

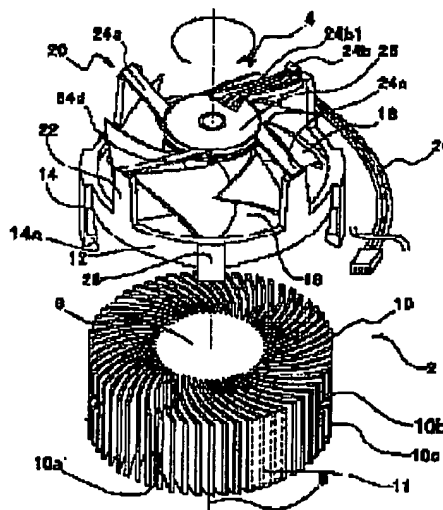
In paragraph [0013] of JP-2003-258473-A, the following sentence appears.

A recess 9a into which the claws 9 for anchoring the cooling-fan fit into engagement is formed in the outer circumferential surface portion of *each* of the radiating fins of the first fin group 3.

(Emphasis added.)



Sasa



present invention

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In the figures above, in the drawing on the left, which is from the Sasa patent, recess 9a is highlighted in circled areas *a* and *b* in the drawing. As is thus clear from the drawing, recess 9a is formed in *every one* of the radiating fins of the first fin group 3.

In contrast, in the present invention as now recited in claims 1 and 10, "at least one of the heat radiating fins is formed," or "*select ones* of the heat radiating fins are formed,"

with a distal-edge protrusion or recess so as to define along the envelope of the heat sink at least one *discrete* engagement feature.

Thus, as now clearly delimited by the amended language of claims 1 and 10, the engagement feature in the heat sink part of a heat-sink fan according to the present invention is not, nor as recited cannot be, continuous along the periphery of the heat sink, because engagement feature is deliberately designed to be "discrete," that is,

1: constituting a separate entity : individually distinct

2a: consisting of distinct or unconnected elements :

(Merriam-Webster).

This distinguishing configuration according to the present invention yields the following advantage.

In the Sasa structure, the fact that the recess 9a is formed in *every one* of the plurality of radiating fins reduces the surface area of each of the radiating fins, which lowers their heat-radiating efficiency. In the present invention, however, the fact that "*select ones* of the heat radiating fins are formed with a distal-edge protrusion or recess," allows reduction in surface area of the individual heat-radiating fins to be kept to a minimum, which minimizes consequent lowering of heat-radiating efficiency.

Moreover, the fact that the recess 9a is formed in *every one* of the plurality of radiating fins in the Sasa structure lowers the strength of the radiating fins, whereas with the present invention, lowering of strength of the heat radiating fins as a plurality is kept to a minimum.

The structure of the present invention is clearly different from the structure taught by Sasa.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasa in view of Ogawara et al. (US Patent 6,419,007 B1).

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In the present invention as now recited in claims 1 and 10, "at least one of the heat radiating fins is formed," or "*select ones* of the heat radiating fins are formed,"

with a distal-edge protrusion or recess so as to define along the envelope of the heat sink at least one *discrete* engagement feature.

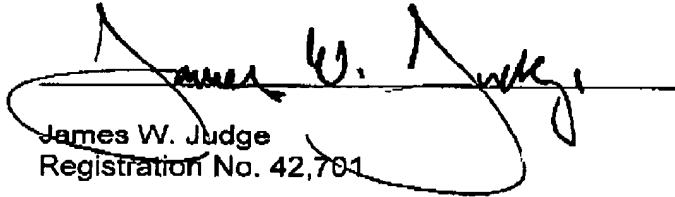
Because the cited references neither disclose, nor teach or suggest, this configuration, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention could not be arrived at without inventive effort.

Conclusion

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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